

BSFIC likely to earn
Tk 26 cr profit

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, burdened with cumulative losses incurred for long nine years, is expected to earn an estimated profit of Tk 26 crore in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The disclosure came in a meeting yesterday on performance evaluation and prospects for joint venture of the BSFIC with Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan in the chair.

The meeting was also told that the total loss in sugar sector came down from Tk 82 crore to 12 crore during last year (1993-94).

The Industries Minister asked the BSFIC officials to develop and expand its network of fair-price shops covering major cities in order to obviate any possible artificial escalation of sugar price in the markets.

The meeting was informed that 58,398 metric tons of sugar had been produced till December 15 during the current crushing season and crushing is going on in full swing in all the 15 mills across the country.

The total production target has been fixed at 2.8 lakh metric tons during the current season.

The minister also directed the officials to explore avenues for setting up raw sugar projects as well as molasses-based refinery units under joint venture which had the potentials to grow into a prospective and viable sub-sector.

The meeting was attended by Industries Secretary AHM

Commerce Minister
reaches Riyadh

Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam arrived in the Saudi capital Riyadh Friday afternoon at the head of a high powered delegation, reports UNB.

According to a message received here, Shamsul Islam was received at the King Khaled International Airport by Saudi Deputy Minister for Commerce and Foreign Trade Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Zamil. Bangladesh Charge d'Affaires Badiuzzaman Khan and senior officials of the Saudi Commerce Ministry and officials of Bangladesh Embassy were present.

Seminar at BIBM

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management will hold a one-day seminar on "cost efficiency in banking" on Tuesday, says a press release.

Khorshed Alam, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, will inaugurate the seminar as chief guest. AHM Nurul Islam Choudhury, Director General, BIBM, will preside over the inaugural function.

Some of the specific objectives of the seminar are to identify and analyse the factors contributing to efficiency in managing costs in banks and to suggest measures for improving the cost management system for achieving operational efficiency in banks.

Sujit R Saha, Faculty Member, BIBM, will coordinate the seminar.

WB to provide
Cambodia tech
assistance

PHNOM PENH, Dec 17: The World Bank has signed an agreement to provide Cambodia technical assistance worth 17 million dollars, Finance Minister Keat Chhon said on Friday, reports Reuters.

The minister signed the agreement at the finance ministry along with Ernaud Guinand, the permanent representative of the World Bank for Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Chhon said the money would be used to provide technical assistance, training and equipment for civil service reform and "to provide a legal environment conducive to the development of the private sector."

Guinand said progress has been made in the past two years and training was important.

Chhon said he hoped the agreement would demonstrate to other contributors the benefits of technical and financial assistance to Cambodia.

Number of pvt car rises

By Rafiq Hasan

Private cars in the country have increased 15 per cent in the last five years.

According to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), there are 52,151 motor cars in the country. In 1989, the number of private cars was 41,340.

According to the BRTA sources, number of all types of road vehicles have increased during the 1989-94 period. In 1989, there were 2,51,765 automobiles in the country. Up to June this year the total number of on-road vehicles stood at 3,37,013.

Among other modes of road transports, the number of motor cycles has increased significantly about 49 per cent, during the period.

According to the BRTA estimate, there are 1,65,361 motor cycles all over the country. The number was 1,20,301 in 1989.

Construction of many new roads across the country and expansion of some cities have contributed to the increase of

road vehicles, BRTA sources added.

The number of buses has increased 3.86 per cent over the period while there are 12,982 buses in the country. In 1989, the number was 11,734. The number of jeep, van, wagon and micro bus is 25,696.

The number of trucks in the country has increased 8.47 per cent. According to the BRTA, 28,522 trucks are now engaged in carrying goods all

over the country.

The number of operating mini buses is 9,383.

As per BRTA sources there are 33,026 auto rickshaws and tempos.

The number increased 9.8 per cent during the period.

The total number of registered on road vehicles during the period in 1989-2,51,765, in 1990-2,74,499, in 1991-2,96,317, in 1992-3,14,009, in 1993-3,31,859 and 3,37,013 up to June 1994.

US dollar gains in NY

NEW YORK, Dec 17: The dollar posted slight gains yesterday against major currencies except the Japanese yen with trading subdued ahead of coming holidays, reports AFP.

Gold lost 1.60 dollars per ounce to end at 378.60.

Around 4:15 pm (2115 GMT) the dollar cost 1.5725 German marks from 1.5710 at midsession and 1.5712 late

Thursday.

Against the yen it hit 100.25 from 100.20 earlier and 100.37 late Thursday.

The dollar posted gains against the French franc at 5.4235 from 5.4145 Thursday, against the Swiss franc at 1.3325 (1.3270), and against the pound sterling at 0.6408 (0.6399).

BJMC exports jute
goods worth Tk 63 cr

The November of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) exported 30,500 tons of jute goods worth about Taka 63 crores, says a press release.

The export of jute goods and earnings figures in November '93 were 15,800 tons and Tk. 34 crores respectively.

This shows a remarkable increase in export and earnings by 93% and 85% respectively from the corresponding period of last year. Besides, in the current fiscal year from (July to November) BJMC has earned Tk 234 crores by exporting 1,17,200 tons of jute goods.

During the corresponding period of the last financial year (93-94) BJMC exported 88,500 tons of jute, worth about Tk. 182 crores. From that of the corresponding period of the previous year the export of jute goods and earnings figures in the current year have been increased by 32 pc and 29 pc respectively.

The production, at the same

time, in the mills under BJMC has also increased in comparison with the last year. If such production trend continues in future the export of jute goods may increase remarkably.

The officers, staff and labourers in every sphere of BJMC and the mills under it are rendering all out efforts to continue the trend of development achieved over last few months.

BIGWU forms
executive body

Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union formed a 15-member Executive Committee at its founding convention on Friday, reports UNB.

The convention also approved the constitution of the BIGWU. Some 820 delegates from more than 270 garment factories attended the convention, held at the Diploma Engineers Institute in the capital, said a press release yesterday.

Move to half DPRK's
N-programme

WASHINGTON, Dec 17: The United States, South Korea and Japan agreed on Friday to set up a consortium to raise up to 4 billion dollar to replace North Korea's nuclear reactors with new models that cannot produce fuel for atomic weapons, reports Reuters.

Officials of the three countries decided after a two-day meeting in San Francisco to establish an early date a multilateral consortium provisionally named the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), a joint statement said.

The consortium is a key part of an agreement reached in Geneva on October 21 between the United States and North Korea to half Pyongyang's nuclear programme, which Washington says may already have produced enough plutonium for one to two weapons.

Under the accord, the communist state's gas graphite reactors — one in operation and two under construction — will be replaced with light water reactors from which the United States says it will not be possible to divert fuel.

The joint statement, issued by the US State Department in Washington, said KEDO would have its headquarters in New York and would hold its first meeting in February.

The San Francisco meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador at large Robert Gallucci, who negotiated the Geneva agreement, Japanese envoy for relations with North

Korea Tesuya Endo, and South Korean Assistant Minister for Political Affairs Choi Dong Jin.

The joint statement said South Korea would play a central role in the financing and construction in North Korea of two 1,000 megawatt light water reactors of a type already used in South Korea.

Japan would play an appropriate role in managing and funding the project, it added.

The United States is seeing to the supply of heavy oil to North Korea to compensate it for energy lost from its existing reactor. Gallucci said earlier this week the first shipment would arrive within the next month.

Washington will also look after the safe storage of some 55 to 66 pounds (25 to 30 kilograms) of spent fuel — enough for four or five weapons that the North Koreans are keeping in a storage pond. This is ultimately to be shipped out of the country.

The joint statement said the three governments agreed on the need for broad international participation in KEDO.

Gallucci has said he is trying to interest other members of the group of seven top industrial democracies in the project.

The Geneva Accord defused a major international crisis that had brought threats of economic sanctions against North Korea and even fears of renewed conflict on the tense Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang at one point threatened to pull out of the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Narayanganj-Narsingdi Irrigation
Project — a boon to Rupganj people

By Staff Correspondent

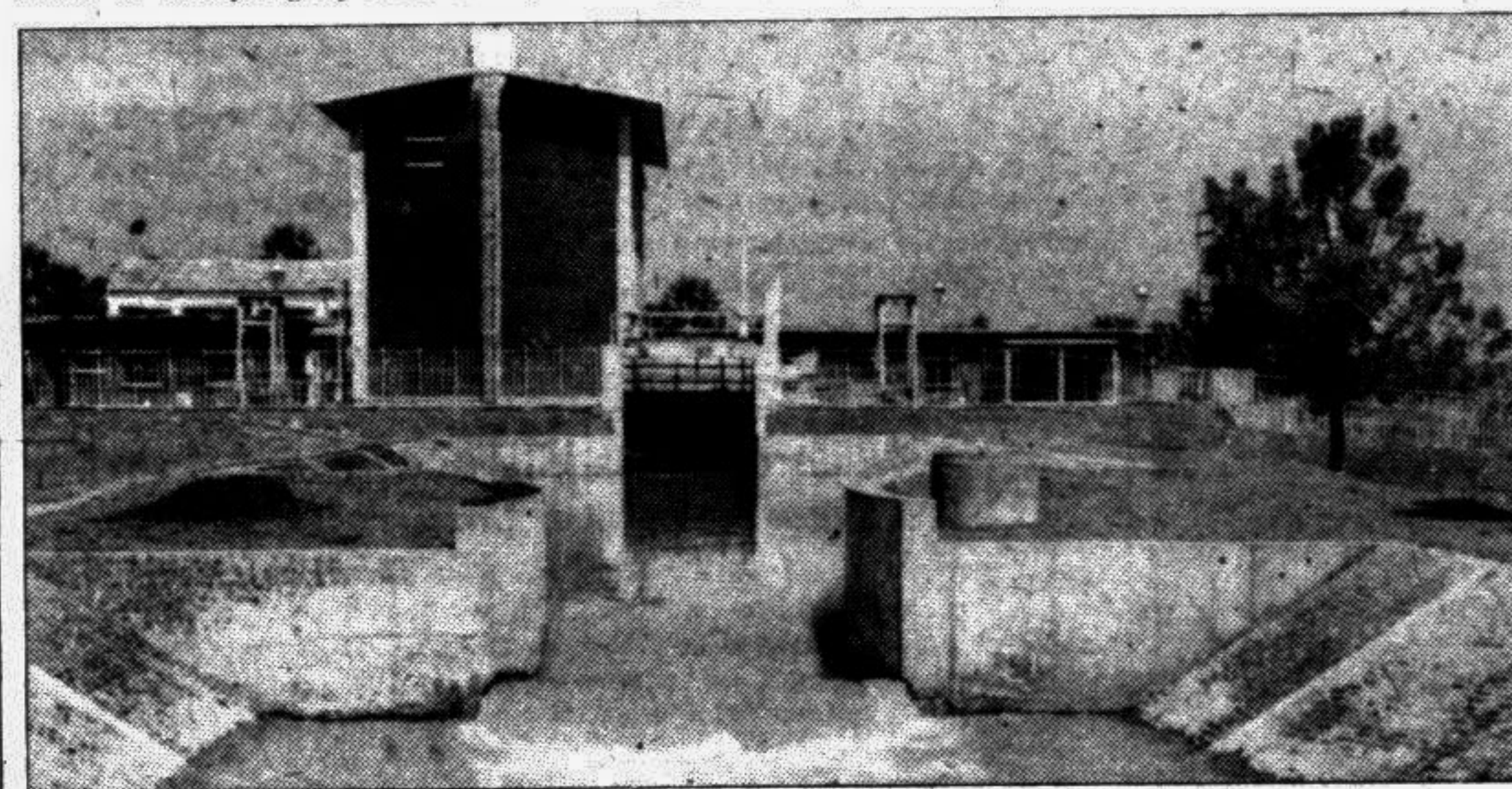
With the completion of the Narayanganj-Narsingdi Irrigation Project, the people of Rupganj have heaved a sigh of relief.

Now the farmers of five unions under the Rupganj thana of Narayanganj district

which Japan has provided 21.03 million dollars and the Bangladesh government the rest.

The project, completed in March 1993, has helped a lot in improving the water management. Japanese experts are

Gumti Bridge, and the nearly one-kilometre long Meghna Bridge both at a cost of about 64.49 million US dollars each and Model Rural Development Project (MRDP) in Daudkandi and Homna at a cost of Tk 18 crore.



Irrigation facilities constructed under grant aid

are sure that they are protected from floods by a 24-kilometre embankment which allows irrigation of some 2120 hectares of land.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has implemented this gigantic task just within three years at a cost of 29.20 million US dollars. Of

hoping to have a salubrious impact on the area's physical environment.

The JICA has built up an image of a sincere development partner of Bangladesh since its inception in August 1974.

In Bangladesh, JICA projects include implementation of the 1.41-kilometre long Meghna-

While on a visit to the JICA project sites in the Rupganj, Daudkandi, Homna and Japan-Bangladesh friendship bridges over the mighty Meghna and Gumti, this correspondent witnessed the sincere development activities of both Japanese and Bangladeshi workers.

At the MRDP, a Japan

Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) worker, Kwata who speaks Bangla fluently and interacts with local farmers like a common man told this correspondent that the MRDP was working according to the model of the BARD at Comilla, but the MRDP was being implemented on the basis of close interaction with the farmers.

The MRDP aims at giving training to the thana cooperative members on poultry, livestock, providing irrigation equipment, construction of road and communication facilities, development of marketing facilities through construction of godowns, strengthening over 100 thana cooperative associations, promoting pisciculture and pottery and construction of primary school buildings.

At Homna, JICA has constructed a huge 1500 sq metre primary school building which would allow education for 600 students simultaneously. The school building will be handed over to the government by March 15, '95.

Construction of the Meghna-Gumti Bridge, which was opened by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in November, has reduced the time required for a journey by half an hour as it had removed the necessity for ferry. Everyday, some 5000 motor vehicles cross this bridge.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
নড়াইল গণপুত্র বিভাগ
নড়াইল।

নিলাম বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৩য় আহবান)
নিলাম দরপত্র নং ১৪/১৯৯৪-৯৫

তারিখ : ০৪-১২-৯৪ ইং
২৬-০৮-১৪০১ বাং

১. নড়াইল গণপুত্র বিভাগের অধীন (ক) জেলা প্রসাধনিক বস্তুর বিক্রয় (খ) জেলা জজের বাসভবন কাশান্দে বিদ্যমান বিভিন্ন পুরাতন ইमारতাদির নিলাম বিক্রয়।
২. উক্ত নিলামের উপর লক্ষ্য ১০% দশা।
৩. ১৪-১২-৯৪ ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ ঘটিকা।

২. ১৪-১২-৯৪ ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
৩. ১৪-১২-৯৪ ইং দুপুর ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা।
৪. কারাদেশ ইস্যুর তারিখ হইতে ৩০ দিন পর্যন্ত।
৫. যাহার গণপুত্র সার্কেলের আওতাধীন সকল গণপুত্র বিভাগসমূহ।
৬. গণপুত্র অধিদপ্তরের আওতাধীন সকল শ্রেণীর বৈধ টিকাদার ও সর্বসাধারণ।
৭. নিলাম পরে উল্লিখিত লট মোতাবেক।

দেওয়ান মোঃ ইয়ামিন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
নড়াইল গণপুত্র বিভাগ, নড়াইল।

১৪০১-১০১১-১২/১২
জি-১০০১

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহণ কর্তৃপক্ষ
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিবিল, ঢাকা।

সুপারিশন কনসালটেন্ট
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"কুতুবদিয়া উপকূল দ্বীপের বড়োপা ও সওরউদ্দিন সংযোগ সড়কের সাপেক্ষে আরবিসি জোটি ও আনুষঙ্গিক সুবিধাদি নির্মাণ" প্রকল্পের কাজ তদারকীর জন্য কনসালটেন্ট ফর্মের নিকট হইতে দুই বাম (Two envelop) প্রকৃতির শর্তে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রাদাগের পৃথকভাবে ২টি সীলমোহরকৃত বাম ব্যবহার করিতে হইবে। একটি বামে কারিগরী প্রস্তাব ও অন্য একটি বামে আর্থিক প্রস্তাব এবং প্রতিটি বাম সেই অনুসারে চিহ্নিত করিতে হইবে। যে সকল দরপত্রাদাগের কারিগরী প্রস্তাব বৈধ এবং কারিগরী মূল্যায়ন গ্রহণযোগ্য পাওয়া যাইবে শুধুমাত্র তাদের আর্থিক প্রস্তাবগুলি পরবর্তী কোন তারিখে খোলা হইবে। যে সকল কনসালটেন্ট ফর্মের অনুরূপ প্রকল্প কাজের তদারকীতে কমপক্ষে ৭ (সাত) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে এবং একক কর্মাদেশে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) কোটি টাকার প্রকল্প তদারকীর কাজ সম্পাদনা কেবলমাত্র তাদের প্রস্তাবই গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে। দরপত্রের টিওআর এবং আনুষঙ্গিক কাগজপত্রের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (সংস্করণযোগ্য) নগদ জমা দিয়া কর্তৃপক্ষের হিসাব বিভাগ, ঢাকা হইতে পত্রিকার সহিত প্রেরিত হইবে। দরপত্রের টিওআর এবং আনুষঙ্গিক কাগজপত্র পত্রাহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণের আগের দিন পর্যন্ত নিম্নলিখিত কারিগরী দফতর হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। দরপত্র আগামী ১৪-১২-৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ঢাকা সার্কেল, বাবুনৌক ভবন, ৪ম তলা, ১৪১-১৪৩, মতিবিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-এর দফতরে দাখিল করা যাইবে এবং একই তারিখে বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) কারিগরী প্রস্তাব খোলা হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা পরিত্যক্ত করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আবুল কাসেম
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী

১৪০১-১০১১-১২/১২
জি-১০০১

প্রকল্প পরিচালক
বাবুনৌক ঢাকা সার্কেল, ঢাকা।

Nepal — a superb panorama of world tourists

By Syeda Nazneen Ferdousi

Life is real, active and pleasant—the only thing dead is our greater spirit to live!

Yes, we often sink in the sea of despair, overburdened with multifarious problems till we reach the extent of questioning the reason for living. The routine drudgery of work and the stereotype surroundings are both tiring for the mind and eyes which in a short while, makes life as something merely endurable.

But life is the most precious gift from the lord above, and we should try our best to make each breath worthy of being gifted, so that we can admire the true beauty of nature. The most effective way of rejuvenating our feeble spirits is travelling—travelling to exotic new destinations and thereby enjoying the charm of unknown places with their natural beauty, varied culture and friendly people.

One such unique tourist destination is Nepal mostly known as the land of Mt. Everest (8848m), the highest pinnacle in the world. Geographically, Nepal is situated between two big nations of Asia: India and China and this land-locked country is very small in size with an area of 147,181 square kilometres. It is the only Hindu Kingdom in the world and the sacred birthplace of Lord Buddha, hence a place of reverence and affection for the Hindus and the Buddhists all over the world. It is also the home of heroic Gurkhas who are renowned for their unequalled bravery and valour.

In tourism terminology, Nepal is also described as the "Home of Trekking and Mountaineering." The Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal has been stated as one of the most

beautiful countries in the world. The luscious variety of scenery ranging from the lowland jungles along the Indian border to the highest point on earth including the glistening mountain peaks, huge glaciers, alpine pastures, thick uninhabited forests with abundant flora & fauna and carefully terraced hillsides.

In Nepal, there are 250 peaks that exceed 6000 metres in height and 136 of them have been opened so far for climbing and trekking purposes. In Hindu mythology, mountains are regarded as the sacred dwelling places of the Gods and because of the supernatural height of mountains in Nepal, people term it as the "Kingdom of Gods" and yearn to be in such heavenly place for celestial joys no matter what time and risk they have to encounter.

Tourists come to this land or "Paradise of Trekking" to relax, enjoy the natural and aesthetic beauty and to get acquainted with the culture and habits of this highland settlements. In order to plan a trekking trip, the following tips could be helpful: **Kanchanjunga & Dolpo (Lower) Trek, Everest Trek, Langtang Trek, Manaslu Trek, Annapurna Sanctuary & Annapurna Circuit, Upper Mustang & upper Dolpo Trek and Jumla-Rara Trek**

The above trekking routes are second to none in the world for their adventurous quality, panorama of landscapes and amazing beauty of snow-clad mountains.

The combination of adventurous rafting with game-viewing in the wild-life parks

is a special characteristics of Nepalese tourism product. One or a few days' rafting trip from the Trisuli, Sunkoshi or Bheri river can easily carry you down to another world of national parks (like Chitwan National Park).

Nepal is the pilgrimage destination for the people of two

religious faiths. As the only Hindu Kingdom with constitutional Hindu Monarch, it is the centre of religious faith for the Hindus. The temple of Lord Pashupatinath, the greatest of the Hindu Gods, on the bank of Holy Bagmati River in Kathmandu is the most revered one.



The stupa of Buddha at Baudha

Similarly, as the sacred birthplace of Shakyamuni Gautama Buddha, the promulgator of Buddhism and an apostle of Peace and Compassion, Nepal is a pious place of great devotion for the Buddhists. Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha is such a place where every Buddhist longs to visit, once in a life time at least. The Buddhist Chaityas and Monasteries in the Kathmandu Valley and the Northern Sherpa and Tibetan settlement in high numbers suggest the deep influence and observance of Buddhism in Nepal.

The capital city Kathmandu, derived its name from "Kasthamandapa" meaning the wooden temple which is a magnificent building erected in late sixteenth century. The legend says that the temple was built out of a single tree during the reign of King Lakshmi Narasing Malla.

The Kathmandu valley, which consists of three ancient historic cities: Kathmandu, Braktapur and Patan, is the centre of culture and civilisation. Each of the cities has its own outstanding supreme feature of art, architecture and culture. Old Hindu temples, Buddhist monasteries (Gombas), historic monuments and places scattered in the three cities of Kathmandu Valley, are among the rarest and finest examples of Nepalese wood carving, sculpture and architecture.

Wherever you go, either in the Durbaf square, Taleju temple, Kasthamandap, Swyambhunath, Pashupatinath or Buddhath in Kathmandu or Krishna Mandir (temple) and Durbaf square with golden gate in Patan or 55 window palace, Nyajapol temple, Dattatraya

temple or Changu Narayan in Bhaktapur, you will surely appreciate the exquisite beauty and perfection of Nepalese supreme artistic architectural and cultural value.

Although there is a big racial, social, cultural and religious diversity in Nepal, each race and community have the freedom and liberty of their own faith. The aggregation of such diversity is the main essence of the richness of Nepalese national culture due to which they enjoy such a unique social, cultural, and religious homogeneity that serves as the foundation of national unity.

The Nepali shops have beautiful woollen shawls, carpets, embroidered vest coats, cushion covers, bed covers, wooden and metal craft, jewelry especially of stone, ivory and gems and wide variety of hand made items. The prices being quite reasonable, you can be guaranteed of a complete satisfaction while coming home.

To conclude, I shall say that Nepal represents a miraculous box containing heterogeneous attractions. It is a different world for the tourists, easily accessible, food & accommodation comparatively cheaper, hospitality of the people, the romantic view of the mountains and the comfort in the middle of adventures will surely captivate you.

When I visited Kathmandu in October '93, the sweet Nepali smile at the immigration desk saying "Shagotoms" made me feel so warmly welcomed. My one week tour was the most enjoyable event in my life and I still cherish the wonderful memories which occasionally orates my reveries at leisure time.